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**FORMER FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CHIEF OF
INVESTIGATIONS AND SENIOR INVESTIGATOR PLEAD GUILTY
TO CONSPIRACY AND THEFT OF FEDERAL PROPERTY CHARGES**

Defendants Diverted Defense Department Equipment from Law Enforcement Use

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former Chief of Investigations for the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, TERRY L. WALTON, 59, of Piedra, in rural Fresno County, California, and EVERETT A. RABBON, Jr., 52, of Fresno, a former Senior Investigator in the same office, pled guilty to conspiracy and theft of government property charges.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Fresno County District Attorney's Office's Bureau of Investigations, the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General, Defensive Criminal Investigative Service, and the Department of Defense's Defense Logistics Agency, Criminal Investigation Activity. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Virna L. Santos and Marlon Cobar.

In today's court hearing before United States District Court Judge Oliver W. Wanger, WALTON admitted that in his role as the former Chief Investigator for the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, he conspired with RABBON to steal federal surplus military items obtained from the Department of Defense's Law Enforcement Support Office ("LESO"). WALTON and RABBON had obtained those items from the LESO with the stated purpose of using them for the District Attorney's Office law enforcement activities.

For his part in the case, RABBON admitted that on or about December 22, 1999, he stole federal property in his capacity as liason between the Fresno District Attorney's Office and LESO. Specifically, RABBON admitted that he procured an air conditioning unit, which he then provided to a relative for personal use, knowing that such federal property was only authorized for bonafide law enforcement use.

United States Attorney Scott commented, "It is vital that the law holds accountable those in positions of public trust who choose to violate that trust. Our office appreciates greatly the

cooperation we have received from the Fresno County District Attorney's Office in this matter. ”

“This investigation, initiated by the District Attorney's Office, demonstrates our commitment to seek justice by pursuing those who violate the law regardless of their standing or status in the community,” said Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth A. Egan.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Santos, the maximum sentence WALTON faces for conspiracy is five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year term of supervised release. The maximum sentence that RABBON faces for theft of government property in this case is a one-year term of imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine. Judge Wanger set sentencing for January 10, 2005.

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